

**Comments on texts resulting from the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission
Report – January 2005 Meeting
Submitted by the United States of America**

Chapter 2.3.3 -- Bovine Tuberculosis

Suggested text:

Article 2.3.3.3.

Herd ~~officially~~ free from bovine tuberculosis

To qualify as ~~officially~~ free from bovine tuberculosis, a herd of cattle ~~shall~~ should satisfy the following requirements:

....

- 2) all cattle in the herd:
 - a) show no clinical sign of bovine tuberculosis;
 - b) over ~~6~~ 9 weeks of age, have shown a negative result to at least two tuberculin tests carried out at an interval of 6 months, the first test being performed at 6 months following the slaughter of the last affected animal;
 - c) showed a negative result to an annual tuberculin test to ensure the continuing absence of bovine tuberculosis;

Rationale:

Item 2) b): The experience in the United States has been that testing animals younger than 9 weeks yields results which are very unreliable. The tuberculin test depends largely on a functioning immune system, and in animals younger than 2 months (9 weeks) old, immune systems are not fully functional thus yielding unreliable tuberculin test results.

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Article 2.3.3.3.

Herd ~~officially~~ free from bovine tuberculosis

To qualify as ~~officially~~ free from bovine tuberculosis, a herd of cattle ~~shall~~ should satisfy the following requirements:

1) ...

3) all cattle introduced into the herd ~~come from~~ a) ~~must be accompanied by a certificate from an Official Veterinarian attesting that they were subjected to a tuberculin test during the 30 days prior to entry into the herd, with negative result; or a herd free from bovine tuberculosis. This condition may be waived for animals which have been isolated and which, prior to entry into the herd, were subjected to at least two tuberculin tests carried out at a 60 to 180 day 6-month interval with negative results.~~

b) ~~were kept in a herd officially free from bovine tuberculosis.~~

Rationale: Many countries have bovine tuberculosis eradication campaigns allowing for a minimum testing interval period of 60 days. Thus, allowing for a range in the interval minimizes the prescriptiveness of the recommendation while also incorporating the testing measures of many country programs.